

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

VOLUME VI, #2

SUMMER 1995

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1892-O Half Dollar

IN MEMORY OF WALTER WHO DIED APRIL 23, 1908.
(COURTESY OF BILL SMITH)

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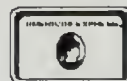
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JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly. Dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

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Philip CarriganPresident
David Lawrence.....Editor, BCCS Journal
Paul ReuterSecretary/Treasurer
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Tom Mulvaney.....Photographer

ADDRESSES

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed and other journal concerns write to Dave — P.O. Box 64844, Virginia Beach, VA 23467.

For Membership Dues & information and back issues, write Paul Reuter at: 415 Ellen Drive; Brookhaven, MS 39601.

For Society issues in general, survey responses, young numismatist award, etc. write Phil Carrigan at: 1105 N. Crescent Court; Round Lake, IL 60073.

ON THE COVER

Bill Smith, a dealer from Virginia, showed me this half recently. The 1892-O in VG+ is fairly valuable, but who outside of “Walter’s” family would want one in their collection? Photo by Tom Mulvaney.

We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you’ve got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we’d like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

David Lawrence
C/O B.C.C.S. Article Submission
6095 Indian River Road, Suite 204
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Deadline for next issue is September 1st.

As I had promised, the BCCS midwest regional meeting at the CSNS Convention in Milwaukee brought together the leadership of our Society. I had the pleasure of meeting Paul Reuter in person after over three years of phone and written correspondence. Together with our Editor Dave Lawrence and nearly 40 members, we had a great meeting and get together.

What is the next notable event for BCCS? The answer will be obvious for some, it is the American Numismatic Association annual meeting which will be held in Anaheim, CA from August 16 to 20. Our Society meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 19 at 9:30AM in Room A16. Our survey last year showed few members attend major shows or national meetings. Try this one out! I believe you will be overwhelmed by the dimension of an ANA convention and additionally, you'll meet more Barber collectors in one place than you'll ever find elsewhere.

Last month our Past President Steve Epstein wrote a fine article on what I'll paraphrase as: "how to do a coin show!" I've seen Steve execute exactly what he described at several shows. Continuing in this approach, in this issue you will find an important article (in my opinion) by David Vagi which presents tips on coin buying. I read this and decided David's ideas could either be learned slowly by trial and error or we all could benefit from his knowledge immediately.

With this issue of the *Journal* you'll find a new feature I'll tentatively call "Barbers: Words from the Outside." I find a fair quantity of material written concerning this series from dealers and individuals writing for a general collecting audience. Thus, the term 'outside.' We may embrace their ideas or otherwise not entirely agree, however, I believe we should know what the thinking is from these sources. In this issue you'll find excerpts from Tom Becker and Dave Bowers. If anyone sees this type of discussion please send me a copy and we'll try to get permission to put it in the *Journal*.

Finally, this may be the moment to capitalize on the long standing interest in varieties by BCCS members. Dave Lawrence spoke at our CSNS Meeting on Barber varieties and their general absence in the Guidebook. You all may be aware that only the 1893/2 10¢, 1905-O 10¢ and 1892-O 50¢micro-O mintmarks are mentioned and the latter only via a footnote. Dave's remarks were picked up by *Coin World* and printed in their coverage of our meeting. Now is the appropriate time to write a note to Western

Publishing Co (in: Racine, WI 53404) or to contact Ken Bressett, Guidebook Editor and propose inclusion of your three(?) most significant Barber varieties in the next *Redbook* edition. We have many avid and knowledgeable Barber variety experts; these individuals should identify the important specimens and collectively campaign for recognition in the *Redbook*.

Numismatic regards

Phil Carrigan



FROM THE EDITOR

We goofed! The Spring 1995 issue was incorrectly numbered Volume V, #5. It should have been Vol. VI, #1. Please correct this on your copy. This is our sixth year and we are proud of it. Membership is currently strong and we have enough money in our coffer to contemplate some philanthropic acts.

One of the things which makes the *Journal* interesting is to have articles and/or notes from a broad group of members. This issue I am pleased to welcome D.W. Dixon, George S. Wilson and Doug Daniels as contributors. Of course we have our "regulars" and they are important, but it's the fresh input that stimulates our thinking. My goal is to have every member eventually send in something. So please start writing!

The *Barber Dime Die Crack Contest* has been concluded. (See article this issue). Now let's go for the Barber quarters. Send me your most interesting example of a Barber quarter with die cracks. The winner gets the coin photographed in the *Journal* and free dues for 1996.



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THREE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1995

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1995	\$ 3,891.69
Receipts	Dues	\$ 1,320.00
	Back-issue Sales	183.00
	Advertising	183.00
	Donation	10.00
	Total	<u>1,522.00</u>
Funds Available		\$ 5,413.69
Expenditures	Postage	\$ 50.48
	Bank Charges	2.10
	Photography	16.50
	Total	<u>\$ 69.08</u>
Closing Balance	March 31, 1995	<u><u>\$ 5,344.61</u></u>

Signed: Paul Reuter, Secretary/Treasurer

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BARBER HALF DOLLAR VARIETY NEWS

by Alex Pancheco

I would like to update the membership on a half dollar variety I reported in the Spring 1995 issue of the *Journal*, an RPM for the 1911-S. Since that issue was published, I have located two more examples of this variety. The second was a VG, and the RPM shows as a spur from the bottom serif, with a notch at the bottom. It seems somewhat surprising that a variety clearly visible from VG on up wasn't previously known. I guess no one was looking!

I also have a new half variety to report. This is a 1909-S with an inverted mintmark. It is a Type C mintmark, per Lawrence, clearly noticeable as being upside down with the unaided eye. This is made obvious by the fact that the upper loop of the "s" is slightly smaller than the lower for this mintmark type, so the inverted mintmark has a strange off balance, downward tapering look to it. Strangely enough, I had never noticed that the two loops of the Type C mintmark were of uneven sizes until I saw this coin. Once I realized this and compared this coin to others with a properly punched mintmark, it was readily noticeable.

As a funny note, after purchasing the 1909-S at a coin show where I had a table, I showed it to a fellow variety collector attending the show. He then proceeded to pull the very same variety out of MY stock of Barber halves! Intrigued by this, he checked all of the 1909-S halves on the bourse floor and found that about one-third of the available coins were of this variety. The coins were from at least two different dies, based on mintmark position. So it appears that it may be fairly common.

This variety holds promise that other similar types may be found. First, there may be other dates with inverted mintmarks. And more intriguingly, but less likely, the 1909-S may possibly be found with the mis-punched mintmark partially defaced and a proper punch made over it, creating an S over upside down S variety. As my comments above show, the lack of published varieties may simply be because not all of us take the time to look at every coin they come across. I am as guilty of this as anyone else, and I consider myself to be a variety collector! But the good part of this is that there are still plenty of new things to be found out there.



THE LAST ONE

by D. W. Dixon

For the past five years, I have taken on the task of putting together a set of Barber half dollars. In order to keep within my budget the grade range chosen was very good to fine. Occasionally, a coin in Very Fine would be added. Although I was also collecting Barber dimes and quarters my favorite denomination was the Barber half. This is where I put most of my effort and available funds.

The Barber half is a very intriguing and romantic coin. Introduced in the "Gay Nineties" this coin circulated heavily from coast to coast. At this time immigration was at a high and an immigrant working in one of the many factories was paid from fifty cents to a dollar a day. How many of these Barber half dollars were handed to workers for a day's wages? It is no wonder they were heavily circulated. Not many people could afford to put back this much at that time. Also, how many immigrants might have sent part of their earnings to family members back in their homeland, perhaps to pay for a loved one's passage to the United States? It is any wonder ninety percent of the Barber half dollars encountered today are in About Good condition? Just to find coins from the early dates and most of the branch mints with full rims can be quite a task.

My first year found me with over half of the set completed and caused a false sense of security. I thought I would have the set finished within the next year. Several dates are very underrated in this series. The 1894 Philly is a killer with full rims. Mine was found when BCCS was having its contest on 1894-P's. That was the only one I found during the contest and four years later I have only seen one other. Other tough dates in the Philly coins are the 1895 and the 1910. The 1913, 1914, and 1915 have low mintages, but were not that tough to find.

Among the San Francisco dates are some tough coins. The 1894-S, 1896-S, and the 1901-S are very under priced. The 1907-S is hard to find. But the most difficult to locate with full rims in my book is the 1897-S. I must have looked at forty or fifty of them with a Good or Very Good obverse and only a partial rim on the reverse. Just try to find one with complete rims on both sides. I think you will be amazed. To me this is the most underpriced coin in the series in low grade.

New Orleans Barbers are the most fascinating to me. Many dates are hard to find and these coins circulated for many years in the south. The Micro-

O is very rare. I was putting together a date and mint mark set so I chose not to include it. New Orleans coins I had difficulty with were the 1894-O, 1896-O, and the 1898-O. The last coin to finish my set was a coin from this mint. Although I could find the coin very often in XF, AU and mint state grades, it took me 5 years to locate my 1892-O in strict very good condition. I really didn't concentrate on this date early, because I saw the coin offered for sale in high grade so often. Also, being a first year of issue, I felt the coin was readily available. Boy was I wrong. I was down to only this coin for about six months. Finally I saw one advertised. I called and was assured it had full rims and was problem-free. When it arrived I was very pleased as it was a perfect match to the set. Best of all, it was THE LAST ONE.

I hope this article helps others putting together circulated sets of Barber half dollars. After all the hard work looking at the set gives you quite a feeling of accomplishment. Especially when you know you are one of the lucky few to own a complete set. If you think I am resting on my laurels, you are wrong. As soon as I finish this article I'm getting started on completing my dime and quarter sets. Happy hunting!

❖

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BUYING CLEANED COINS?

by George S. Wilson

Buying cleaned coins used to be up to the individual's taste or collecting criteria. Now it sometimes seems a necessary evil in order to fill those few holes (permanently?). The question is how to price them and how much cleaning to accept?

Well ten years ago an old time collector friend offered me a near complete (XF-MS63) set of Barber dimes! Unfortunately each and every coin had been lightly dipped years ago and they looked like proofs. Well, I was interested as I didn't have one Barber coin at the time and I was looking to get into a new series. The seller didn't know what to ask and I didn't know at the time what to offer. So being patient he took offers from dealers at the small shows. When the last offer was arrived at I jumped in and offered him a \$1000, he accepted and the deal was consummated. The offer I had in mind was about 70% (tops) of the then current bid. I noticed these coins had very few hair-lines and felt they could be retoned, with patience, just by putting them on a piece of bare wood in a sunny window and flipped over like hamburgers once a week. Well I should say lots of patience! One year later most are looking like "retoned" coins close to original.

Each coin toned a little differently than the next. It depends on how it was toned originally, I think. I know and you know these coins will always be "retoned". But they sure look better than a bunch of headlights starring at you and besides current bid is about \$5,800 for the set (70% of that is \$4,600, not a bad investment)!

Well the lucky purchase in 1985 got me infatuated with Barbers. After not too long I was seeking to put a VF-AU set of Barber quarters together. A few friends also began collecting Barbers! Falling in love with Miss Liberty's Portrait, the tough and free eagle on the reverse, I had to have more!

The next ten years was happily spent looking for specimens that would form the quarter set. My twelve shows a year did not yield a lot of scarce dates in high grade. First was the 1895-O then the 1897-O, a nice

1900-O and some "plains". With following years, shows and deals past came the 98-O, 97-S, 92-S, 09-O, 14-S. But I was still missing the 1896-O, 1901-O, 1899-S, and 1908-S. What was I to do? They were just not at the shows above fine condition, if at all. Mail order was hit and miss, mail & return and besides it was expensive. Then it hit me all of a sudden. Remember those cleaned Barbers you wouldn't even consider, much less examine? Go ahead and grimace, but I started purchasing, usually at a large discount, some really scarce VF-AU quarters that I thought would eventually fit in with the others.

If you do this, look carefully at each whizzed specimen and try to see if any luster remains in the devices or if any original toning remains anywhere on the coin. If it does chances are good that the sunlight treatment will "naturally" retone them back to an acceptable condition. When doing this watch out for too many hairlines. These never go away. My guess as to why silver retones, left in a window, is because the acid molecules in the air over time attach themselves slowly to the surface to form oxides (toning). A very thin layer we like to call "eye appeal." The bare wood I mentioned apparently gives off something which will help the process. Remember Mom's silverware?

I do not advocate the deliberate sale of retoned coins as original, only that retoned coins can be of help when assembling a very challenging series such as Barber quarters. Has anyone else in the club considered purchasing a few cleaned coins?



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DIE CRACK CONTEST

Barber dimes don't have many dramatic die cracks. the winner of our contest is Jeff McGrath who submitted this 1893-S. I have seen similar die cracks on some Barber halves, but this is the first of this type on a dime, thanks Jeff!

The runner up is Jack White whose 1914-D dime had this dramatic crack through the mint mark.



THE WINNER: 1893-S dime from Jeff McGrath



RUNNER UP: 1914-D dime from Jack White

TIPS TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL COIN BUYER

by David Vagi

(note from Phil Carrigan: The following is an abridged version of an article which appeared earlier this year in Canadian Coin News under a monthly column focused on ancient coins. David Vagi is a Vice President at SPINK America/Christie's – an expert on ancients and a fine fellow. His advice applies to all coin buyers. His "tips" are sound concepts one may slowly learn during years of collecting; each of us can benefit by considering these points as we collect.)

Below I have described 10 (plus one) ways to become a better buyer in the (ancient) coin market:

1. BE COURTEOUS TO DEALERS.
2. IF A PRICE SEEMS TOO HIGH DON'T TAKE OFFENSE, AND DON'T GIVE OFFENSE.
3. IF IT REALLY IS A BARGAIN — DON'T PROCRASTINATE — BUY IT NOW.
4. ATTEND COIN SHOWS.
5. ATTEND AUCTIONS TO PURCHASE AND TO OBSERVE.
6. IF YOU BUY REGULARLY AT AUCTIONS, FIND AN AGENT.
7. BUY THE BEST YOU CAN AFFORD.
8. DON'T BE AFRAID TO PAY FOR QUALITY.
9. DON'T STRETCH FOR COMMON OR LOW-GRADE ITEMS.
10. DON'T LOOK TO MAKE A PROFIT. (Profit should not be the prime motive for collector buying.)
- 10 +1. "BUY THE BOOK BEFORE YOU BUY THE COIN."

Editor's Note: Let's get some "Letters to the Editor" started. This article is a good place to begin. Send your comments to the Journal office.



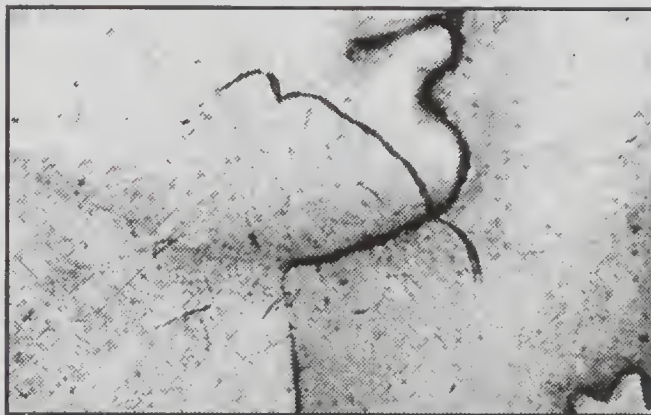
ODDITIES & VARIETIES

from the Editor

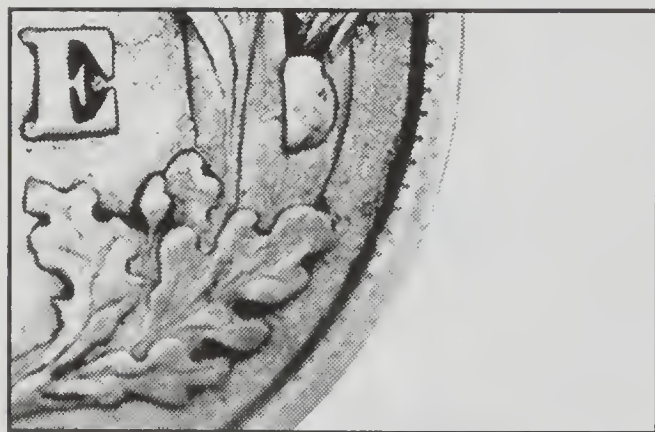
(all photos by Tom Mulvaney)



1908-D RPD 10¢. NOTE 1/1.
(COURTESY of JACK WHITE)



1914-P 25¢. STRUCK THOUGH
SOMETHING.
(DLRC)



1894-P 10¢ with die chip ON CORN EAR
(DLRC)



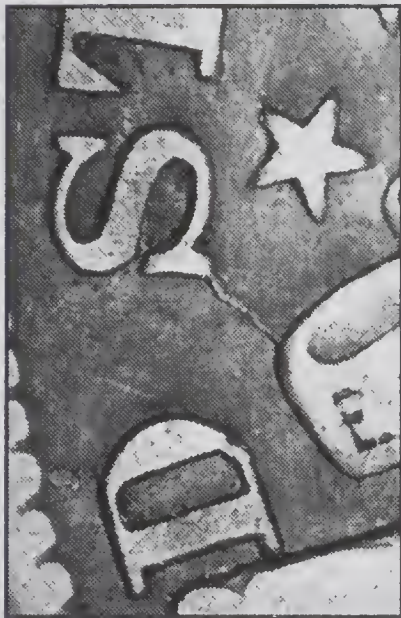
1901-O 50¢ die SCRATCH from A in
Dollar TO ARROW bundle
(DLRC)

ODDITIES & VARIETIES

1900-S Half Dollar with Die Cracks (DLRC coin – following 3 photos)



DIE CRACK ACROSS BASE OF NECK TO STARS 1 & 13



DIE CRACK FROM FIRST S IN
STATES TO RIBBON.



DIE CRACK ALONG BASE OF
AMERICA

1892-P Triple Die
REVERSE QUARTER. Al
Blythe sent this photo
(taken by J.T. Stanton)
of his coin. Don't
know yet if it's the
same as Lawrence
#105.



CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS

Reach 250+ collectors who are serious about Barbers! Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. Rates are \$4 per ad (over 4 lines add 50¢ per line). Send with check to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23464.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

BARBER QUARTERS WANTED: 1892-S, 1898-O, 1901-O and 1905-S. I need ONE COIN of EACH GRADING FROM VF30 TO AU50. Only INTERESTED IN CHOICE ORIGINAL, problem-free COINS. Will PAY OVER RETAIL VALUE FOR THE RIGHT COIN. PLEASE WRITE OR CALL FIRST. DOUG VEAL; 5747 Addison AVE. NE; Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. 1-319-395-9452 EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

I am happy to report that the Society membership is almost at the 270 mark. We have been helped by nice articles in coin world, by people joining after reading Dave's books and by referrals at coin shows.

Several members had more or less became lost during the change of secretaries but I think we have solved those problems.

With each issue of the Journal, we got reports of changes of addresses, spelling corrections and other items that improve the accuracy of our mailing list. Please continue to send me those corrections so that you are assured of not missing future journals.

The next time we mail out dues renewal notice we will try to be a little more precise. the last time around there was some confusion and more than a few members sent in their dues for a second time for 1995. Wherever I could identify this I have applied their second payment to the 1996 year.

I was able to meet quite a few members at the Central States Show in Milwaukee and it was a pleasure to do so. With my remote location, I don't get to many shows.

And finally, I can report that the finances of the Society are in good shape. While there was an error in the treasurers' report in the last journal, the one in this journal is correct and the March 31, 1995 balance is \$5,344.61. For reference, the balance at the end of May 1995 was approximately \$5,400.00

Paul Reuter



Back Issues For Sale

Of the 21 BCCS Journals issued, 18 are still available at \$4.00 per issue. Lower pricing is charged for multiple issue orders. Typically \$14.00 for a set of 4 issues. \$28.00 for a set of 8 issues, and \$55.00 for a set of 16 issues.

No longer in print are Vol. II, # 1 and #2 and Vol. V, #1. A copying machine copy of these can be made up and they are priced at \$5.50 each. Make check payable to BCCS.

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Dave

David W. Lange
Director of Research



THE COIN MARKET INVESTIGATOR

Becker & Kuehnert, vol 2 issue #1 1995

Years ago a customer asked us to help them assemble a complete set of Barber half dollars In Fine grade. He required coins with a full, but not bold, Liberty on the head band. Coins with rim nicks and other detracting features were not acceptable. Most importantly, he would accept no cleaned coins. Pieces which had acquired the typical medium gray toning were expected. Even a little dirt in the letters would be okay. His request seemed reasonable and so we accepted the job. Trying to build this set nearly drove us nuts!

At the time common date Fine grade Barber half dollars were worth about \$25 to \$30. According to the pricing guides, they are worth about the same now. Prior to tackling this project we hadn't paid much attention to well circulated Barber half dollars. Once we started looking for them we were quite amazed at what we found.

Most of the pieces we encountered had been cleaned. Most often it looked like a previous owner had decided to freshen them up by scrubbing them with baking soda paste. Many times if we found an uncleaned example it had some sort of problem like a rim nick, scratch, corrosion, or the like. What added to the frustration was that many dealers tended to slightly over-grade the coins. Many technically Very Good examples were offered as Fines and Priced that way. On those rare occasions when did locate an untampered, with example that was a no-question Fine it was graded, or at least priced, as though it was a Very Fine!

After working on the project for several months, and having only found six coins for the customer, we reluctantly admitted defeat. Even if the customer was willing to pay substantially more than what the pricing guide said these coins should be worth, it was still going to take a great amount of time, and lots of luck, to ever finish the set. Based on this experience, and considerable observation since, we would estimate that less than 30% of all the circulated Barber half dollars that are in the hand of collectors happen to be strictly untampered with specimens!

Are we suggesting that you rush right out and buy all of the nice Fine examples of Barber half dollars that you can find because they are going to soon double or triple in value? Actually we would be shocked if these coins started to rise in value. The message that we're attempting to convey is that

such coins should be given serious consideration by true collectors who appreciate having special coins in their collection. We think that most dealers would agree that it would be much easier to assemble an uncirculated set of Barber half dollars than to build the same set in the Fine or Very Fine grades. The supply of "virgin" circulated coins is never going to be larger than it is today. Many thousands of once attractive, but circulated, coins have been buffed, cleaned and whizzed, in order to pass them off to unsuspecting buyers as uncirculated. Many more have had their surfaces altered in some way. As we have suggested many times, a coin need not be expensive to be very special.



Flash! Flash! Flash!

BCCS Young Numismatist Award

Dave Lawrence and I recently discussed the inauguration of an award for young numismatists. The competition would be based on preparation of a one page article of interest to BCCS members. Individuals entering the competition should not be more than 16 years old. They do not need to be BCCS members however, their submission requires the endorsement of a Society member.

We envision two or three awards depending on the number of entries. The top entry will be entitled to \$100 in numismatic books of their choosing with the following entries receiving a \$50 award and so forth. Obviously, the top entries would be published in the Journal.

We would appreciate hearing from members regarding this concept. Please write Dave and let him know if you are for or against this idea.

Phil Carrigan

ABOUT THE COIN MARKET

by Q. David Bowers

If you are seeking Mint State Barber dimes, a good beginning point is MS-63 or MS-64, or even go for MS-65. Prices are cheaper now than they have been in quite a while, and numerous rare varieties can be obtained for little more than "type" prices. If I were putting together a set of Mint State Barber dimes--the same comment goes for Barber quarters and half dollars of this same era--I would set a goal of MS-63 to MS-65, but buy each coin on an individual basis, selecting it for lustre, sharpness of strike, and overall appearance. This is a formidable task, and I would not expect that it would be finished inside of two or three years. I like to think of the Bowers and Merena clientele as being reasonably sophisticated but I'll throw in the comment, that if you don't care much about aesthetics and only about certified numbers, then putting together such a set could probably be done in a few months! Ditto for the half dollars and quarters.

(published March 6, 1995)

Barber quarters, minted from 1892 to 1916, are, like Barber dimes and half dollars, on "hold" in the market. Most pricing is by type rather than by variety, with the result that a number of truly rare issues can be acquired at truly reasonable prices--a pleasant situation.

The three key rarities in the series are 1896-S, 1901-S, 1913-S, each of which is cheaper now than a few years ago, but of course, every bit as rare as they were in the wild market of the late 1980s.

Among Mint State coins I like grades of MS-63 and MS-64, plus MS-65 if the price is right again with cherry-picking the foremost requirement. I would rather have an aesthetically beautiful MS-63 than an ugly MS-65. MS-60, MS-61, and MS-62 Barber quarters often look "scruffy," with undue marks or friction on the cheek. With some effort, decent examples can be acquired in these grade ranges, but I'm not sure the effort is worth it. It's probably best to ignore MS-60, MS-61, and MS-62, and set your sights on MS-63 or better--and get a choice piece.

It really is good to be choosy, even if you have to pay a premium. In buying coins for our stock, I never hesitate to pay a decent premium for a choice coin. But again, our clientele is selective and appreciates choice coins.

(published May 8, 1995)

Editors Comments: I disagree in one respect with both Tom Becker and Q. David Bowers' articles; that is, even if you are not fussy - in my experience some Barber dates can almost never be found in mint state. Take the 1904-S & 1907-S halves and I rest my case!



★★ WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN ★★

It's time for the Society to do something about the lack of respect for Barber Varieties in the coin arena. It starts with the Red Book, which has photos and prices for many of the Large Cent and Bust Half varieties but almost nothing about the Barbers. Coin World Trends and Numismatic News are no help either.

I think if we can show Ken Bressett, Editor of the *Red Book*, of the strong interest there is in these Barbers we may be able to convince him to start illustrating some. Then interest will spread to everyone and the varieties will take on individual values, depending on their scarcity. So let's write to Ken. His address is: Ken Bressett

P.O. Box 60145

Colorado Springs, CO 80960

Tell him the varieties you're most interested in seeing in the book. For Quarters I suggest the 1916-D/D, 1895-S/S, 1897-S Quarter with center mint mark as a start. For Dimes, 93-S/S RPM and Triple S, 1907-D RPD, 1914-D/D blundered D. For Halves, he should illustrate the 1892-o micro-O and 1907-S/S. The Barber Society can help him with photos and suggested retail prices.

David Lawrence

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QUARTERS:

1894-O F12 Old cleaning, toned back.....	\$20.
VF30 Bit dark with light problems, check it out	\$37.
1896-O VF20 Medium grey, old thin scratch on cheek	\$175.
1896-S G4+ Solid good, one obv. nick.....	\$205.
1897-O F12 Old cleaning, now dark but decent	\$50.
1900-S AU50 Mild toning, sharp original coin	\$100.
1903-O VF20 Light grey	\$35.
1903-S XF40 Darker toning highlights.....	\$80.
1909-D XF45 Orange-olive highlights, nice.....	\$100.
1912 VF20 Nice original grey	\$30.
1912-S AU58 technically, original CH. BU coin with light obv. slide marks, well struck, great coin!	\$275.

HALVES:

1893-S G6 Part of L & T show, original grey	\$55.
1897-S VG8+ Two tiny rim bumps	\$100.
1914-S XF40 Sharp original medium grey	\$170.

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CIRCULATED BARBER QUARTERS IN DEMAND

By Keith M. Zaner, COIN WORLD Staff

Reprinted with Permission from COIN WORLD. Published May 22, 1995

Barber quarter dollars are experiencing strong demand from collectors in the grades Fine and Very Fine. Collectors are anxious to obtain Fine 12 condition Barber quarter dollars as opposed to Very Good 8 or VG-10 coins, and are willing to pay a considerable premium above VG for them.

The Barber quarter dollar series began in 1892 and continued through the turn-of-the-century until 1916. Many collectors enjoy the design by Charles Barber and like the idea of collecting a coin the size of a quarter dollar. The price range of a common-date Barber quarter dollar in F-12 condition is from \$15-17. Collectors prefer the Fine quality coin because it is at this grade level where you are able to see many of the original design features.

According to *The Complete Guide To Barber Quarters* by David Lawrence, a Fine Barber quarter dollar is "determined almost entirely from the obverse. A part of every letter in LIBERTY, must show." There is also some feather detail appearing on the eagle's wing on the reverse.

It's no wonder that the price of a Fine example spikes up from the VG and Good grade levels. The greatest change in detail occurs from VG to Fine and collectors are willing to pay significantly more than VG levels to obtain an example in this condition. Collectors want to see the detail for their circulated sets. By the way, the same holds true for Barber dimes and half dollars.

Let's look at some quarter dollar examples. A relatively common date, 1913-D, Trends for \$6 in VG-8 condition. However, it jumps four fold in F-12 to \$24.50. Similarly, a most common 1916 Trends for \$3.95 in VG-8 but leaps to \$16 in F-12.

According to David Lawrence, there is an increasing affluent middle-class collector that can easily afford these coins at these levels. Consequently, the supply of Fine and Very Fine quarter dollars is falling short of demand currently. If this trend continues, the value for these quarters in Fine and Very Fine should continue to rise.

Lawrence says they are not being hoarded. Collectors are not purchasing 20 or more of each date in this condition. Rather, collectors are purchasing one of each date for their sets. Supplies of key and semi-key dates at these grade levels are not keeping pace with demand.



BCCS MEMBER SURVEY RESPONSES

We'll conclude the findings from our member survey with this issue.

The final topic in the survey asked for ideas concerning articles in the Journal along with specific areas of members' interests. Most members simply jotted a brief note or topic without enlarging on detail or scope. Thus, the following ideas are extracted from the survey essentially as presented:

- Liberty nickels
- branch mint proofs; Barber lore: "Denver Wagon Train"
- varieties and member survey of variety holdings
- price advance of select branch-mint dimes during past year
- Barber half dollars
- census data
- "how I built my set"
- MS-66 Barber bid levels
- revisit the 1901-O 25c
- Barber "mumps" coins
- value of split grades (e.g., F/VF); value of varieties
- varieties, personal collecting experiences, new finds
- personal history & sequence of putting together a set (any denomination)
- more surveys
- rarity surveys; die-making & hubbing practices
- pricing accuracy of Barbers versus other series

Some of these topics would be highly appealing if they appeared on the front cover of the next issue! Others are somewhat obscure in their focus. I would suggest the first candidates to prepare any of these articles could be the individuals who suggested the topics in the survey. You are interested in that area and likely know more or have better insights into the issue than anyone else. In the area of rarity surveys, several specialty clubs conduct a periodic canvas of members. This can be performed using member numbers and one designated individual who would maintain confidentiality. I would invite input on this thought and encourage each of you to consider writing a short article on any of the above topics.

Phil Carrigan



SEARCHING FOR BARBER COINAGE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA — A DEALER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Doug Daniels

I've lived in the San Francisco Bay area since 1968 and have collected/been a dealer since 1953. Growing up on the East Coast, it was always a treat to find S-mint coins so when I moved here, I was pleasantly surprised to find so many. As a dealer specializing in Barber Coinage, I expected to find the rare S-mints as well, but this is not the case, rarity is rarity.

Dimes - the 92-S is readily available in AG/GD, it is somewhat difficult to locate a nice VG or Fine. A problem-free VF is very tough, an XF or AU are tough,

but easier than a VF. UNC's are around but expensive.

93-S Situation similar to the 92-S, but have seen lots of RPM's in all grades.

94-S Still looking for one of the missing 12. Have seen one that was purchased in the Philippines, that looks good to me. It is not included on any list and has been seen be ANACS, but the owner declined to have certain metallic tests done so ANACS sent him a letter that it looked real pending further tests. (It has not been certified).

The 95-S is readily available in G/VG, much tougher in F/VF, lots of cleaned or problem XF. AU/UNC's are downright scarce coins. I've seen lots of S/S marked scarce or rare but they are not.

96-S is a tough coin to find in any grade over AG3. This a truly tough S-mint dime and is very underpriced in GD-UNC.

97-S easy to find here in AG-Fine, tougher in VF by far, XF/AU also, (most always cleaned). For mint state - call Jim Phelps (from Mission Impossible).

98-S no problem in AG-XF except if you want uncleaned examples. Some Filipinos I know related to me that they worked in "A Factory" where all they did was clean coins for 8 hours a day, most of these were sea-salvaged pesos, but lots were Barber coins as well. Again call Jim Phelps for uncleaned XF-BU coins.

99-S Same story as 98-S but I've seen more uncleaned coins in all grades.

1900-S Another Philippine date, but at least the Great White Fleet left some of these in the United States. I've found a fair number of this date in Australia and New Zealand. Easier to find than the previous dates, but again many are cleaned.

01-S Lots of AG-GD. R3++ in VG, much tougher in problem-free Fine/VF. Another scarce coin in XF-UNC.

02-S You would think with the 2 million plus mintage that this would be easy, but problem-free Fine 15 and higher are about as tough as a date with one-third the mintage.

03-S Plentiful in AG and cleaned GD. The fun begins finding an original VG or better. I feel this coin is as tough in MS as XF/AU, even though it is not rated so.

04-S Easier to find than the previous coin, but tough in MS (again I feel it is as tough as XF/AU examples).

05-S, 06-S, 07-S, All the dealers around here have lots of these, although the 07-S is hard to find in MS.

09-S I don't know where all these went, maybe into commerce, as everyone has AG/GDs. F-XF I see one ever 6 months. UNC's are impossible.

10-S This date is available here (for a price) in all grades.

11-S, 12-S, 14-S Common here up to XF. AU's - it takes about a week to find one. UNC's about the same except in MS64 and above.

13-S More than 60% of the 13-S I see are AG. Another 25% are full rim goods. This only leaves 15% in VG or better. If my figures are correct that only leaves 7,650 coins.

15-S This coin is underrated in VF/BTTR. I see AG-Fine (lots of problem coins). I have been trying to get a certifiable XF40-MS62 for over 3 years now.

When Dave Lawrence talked me into writing this article, I didn't realize the amount of work involved. I will have to write about the quarters and halves at some future date.



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